



City Health Commissioner Offers Action & Solidarity
U.S. Supreme Court Votes to Overturn Roe v. Wade

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Baltimore City, MD – On Friday, the United States Supreme Court delivered a 5-4 vote to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, effectively overturning 50 years of women’s constitutional right to an abortion.

Baltimore City Commissioner of Health Dr. Letitia Dzirasa released the following statement in response to the ruling:

“We’ve known for some time that the Supreme Court and its Conservative supermajority intended to overturn *Roe v. Wade* this term. But that doesn’t make today any easier for the millions of women across America that have effectively lost control around making decisions directly impacting their health and their bodies. Due to today’s ruling those health decisions now reside in largely male dominated chambers where just 28% of all state senators and only 32% of all state representatives across the country are women.

As a black woman, a mother, and HBCU trained clinician, I know that today an even heavier burden was placed on the backs of women who look just like me. The health disparities for women of color are appalling. According to the CDC, black women are more than *three times* as likely to die from a pregnancy-related cause than white women. I fear that these outcomes will worsen in states where women of color are denied access to these critical services.

Fortunately in Maryland we have robust protections for women’s health. Maryland is one of 16 states that uses Medicaid funds to cover abortion care in certain circumstances. In addition, many private health insurance plans in Maryland also cover abortion care. With the passage of the Abortion Care Access Act (effective July 1), Maryland law will aim to provide equitable access to abortion coverage, whether with private insurance or Medicaid. It will also require private insurance plans, except for those with legal exemptions, to cover abortion care and without cost-sharing or deductibles.

With *Roe v. Wade* overturned, Maryland abortion providers are anticipating an influx of individuals crossing state lines to seek abortion services. Maryland is home to two of the four national late term abortion clinics as well as over 20 different abortion service sites.

The Baltimore City Health Department does not provide abortion services. However, if you are looking for abortion services, consider these resources:

- [Abortion Finder](#)
- [Hey Jane](#)
- [Plan C Pill](#)
- [Repro Legal Hotline](#)

If you or someone you know is a Maryland resident and is seeking financial assistance, consider the following resources:

- [Baltimore Abortion Fund](#)
- [Planned Parenthood of Maryland and the June Coleman Fund](#)
- [National Network of Abortion Funds](#)

I am fortunate to serve as Baltimore's first African American female Health Commissioner—where I am empowered to offer solidarity and *action* as well as lend my voice towards advocacy. Let's continue to work together to protect the health and safety of women in these unprecedented times.”

The Baltimore City Health Department is the oldest continuously-operating health department in the nation. The agency's mission is to protect health, eliminate disparities, and enhance the wellbeing of everyone in our community through education, coordination, advocacy, and direct service delivery. The Agency is led by **Dr. Letitia Dzirasa**, a pediatrician trained at Johns Hopkins and educated at Meharry Medical College— one of America's largest, and oldest, HBCU medical schools. She has served in three administrations during her time as Baltimore City Commissioner of Health since her tenure began in March 2019.

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